

NIKEMA WILLIAMS
5TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

1406 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3801

100 PEACHTREE STREET NORTHWEST, SUITE 1920
ATLANTA, GA 30303
(404) 659-0116

NIKEMAWILLIAMS.HOUSE.GOV
TWITTER.COM/REPNIKEMA
FACEBOOK.COM/REPNIKEMAWILLIAMS
INSTAGRAM.COM/REPNIKEMA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1005

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MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

As a third generation HBCU graduate, I am proud to represent Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, which has the greatest number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) of any Congressional District. I am alarmed by the recent bomb threats against numerous HBCUs, including at Spelman College in my district. I am particularly concerned about the impact of these threats on students, professors, and other employees of these hallowed institutions.

HBCUs were created to provide a safe place of learning for Black Americans who were left out of the promise of higher education. For nearly 200 years, HBCUs have shaped the leaders of our country. These schools have educated millions of Black students, giving them a ladder to the middle class. It is critical that the federal government do all it can to ensure the hundreds of thousands of Black Americans who attend and work at HBCUs are safe.

I respectfully request the Department of Education lead other relevant agencies within the federal government to create a task force to prevent and respond to racially motivated threats and acts of violence on HBCU campuses. The task force should also make resources available to students and personnel facing negative mental health consequences following these incidents. Additionally, I ask that the task force use its findings to propose policy solutions to Congress that would help ensure Black Americans' safety on HBCU campuses.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours for the people,



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress